Once a year we get the opportunity to recognise the efforts of some of the people in our industry who play a crucial role in keeping our drinking water safe and our wastewater collected and treated efficiently. Established in 2010 by qldwater in conjunction with the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA), the Operator and Young Operator of the Year Awards recognise the achievements of operational staff employed in the Queensland water industry. The awards aim to encourage outstanding operational performance of Queensland water industry employees and are presented to operators who showed excellent performance, initiative and all-round attention to detail.

It is with great pride that we announced the 2018 qldwater Young Operator of the Year and Civil/Allrounder of the Year at the WIOA Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference Awards Night held at the Logan Sports Centre in June.

Described by his peers as the go-to liaison for ‘challenging’ customers, an excellent role model for his team and a regular contributor to his employer’s ideas portal, the 2018 Young Operator of the Year – Andrew Hanifin from Unitywater – sets an excellent example at work and out in his community.

Andrew coaches kids’ sports and acts as a crisis phone councillor for the Salvation Army when he finishes his day job. He also makes time for further studies having completed all his water industry worker training requirements as well as a Cert IV in Plumbing and Drainage.

The 2018 Operator of the Year Civil / Allrounder was awarded to Brad Millful from Logan City Council. Brad has been in the water industry for 24 years and a champion for learning and development for much of that time.

As a leader for the SEQ water industry worker program Brad has been a mentor for over 75 field staff, a contributor to training materials and a representative on various industry and technical advisory groups. Aside from trade qualifications, Brad has achieved a Cert IV Training and Assessment, Diploma of Water Operations and Diploma of Project Management. With a focus on continuous improvement, Brad instigated a range of business improvements above and beyond the requirements of his role. Above all, Brad is a much-loved bloke and a fantastic contributor to his organisation and the industry more broadly.

Congratulations also to Tony Cover from Goondiwindi Regional Council who won the AWA Leon Henry Operator of the Year award and Gary Fenwick from QUU who was highly commended for the same award. Glenn Twite from Townsville City Council also picked up best paper by an operator.